



CHILDREN'S NEWSPAPER

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EVERY TUESDAY

FOUNDED BY ARTHUR MEE

PRICE THREEPENCE

SCOTLAND FOR EVER!



Again this week, as for centuries past, the skirl of the bagpipes heralds the day of St Andrew, when all good Scots everywhere are proud to honour the anniversary of the patron saint of their native land.

Metals in the Mixing Bowl

A NEW process has been developed for making metal parts of machines which previously had to be cast or machined. It is called powder metallurgy, and it has caused a revolution in the designing of metal parts.

The various metals, such as iron, copper, aluminium, nickel, or chromium, are first reduced to a fine powder in much the same way as metals are reduced to the powder form to make "silver" paint. This powder is then put into moulds and afterwards subjected to a heating process.

In the heating, the fine grains of the powder become fused together, and the resultant article is indistinguishable from a component made by any of the orthodox methods. In lightness, or hardness, or other special property it can actually be made

superior to that made by the old methods.

The reason for this is that the ingredients can be mixed to give the desired properties to the material, whereas in the normal fusing or smelting to produce an alloy the various elements do not always go well together owing to their different melting points and for other reasons. By the new process they are thoroughly mixed in the powder form, and then fired. In this way components to fulfil special functions can be manufactured easily and cheaply.

A complex part like a gear-wheel can be fabricated with the same ease as a plain one. The saving of man-hours in the manufacture of a whole range of machinery, from typewriters to tractors, will be vast and should cheapen British goods, helping exports.

A CUP OF TEA FROM NEW GUINEA

PLANS are being made to establish a tea-growing industry in the mountains of New Guinea. Already, some experimental plantings of tea bushes have been made; a test patch was grown before the war with such good results that experts declared the country might one day become one of the world's great tea-growing centres.

The camellia bush from which tea is produced will only grow in damp, mountainous places

where the temperature is high. New Guinea, therefore, with its great range of mountains, may well prove to be as productive of good tea as India, China, and Ceylon.

A tea estate is a pretty sight, the hill slopes covered with rows of woody shrubs, not unlike laurel, bearing glossy leaves and the white camellia flowers. Native women and children, with large baskets on their backs, pluck the leaves rapidly with both hands.

THE WELLINGTON COMES TO TOWN

A Floating Museum Where Master Mariners Will Meet

ANOTHER ship is due next week to join those which are permanently moored off the Victoria Embankment of the Thames, not far from the C N offices in London. She, too, will become as famous as Scott's R R S Discovery, H M S Chryseid, and H M S President, whose near neighbour she is to be.

The newcomer is the Wellington, and a fine-looking ship she is, though one of the most unusual craft ever to berth close to where the trams and the traffic hurry to and from the City. She is to be the Headquarters of the Honourable Company of Master Mariners, the Livery Company of the City of London which was founded in 1526 and of which the King is the Admiral; and she is also to contain a nautical museum which on certain days will be open to the public.

War Service

The Wellington is a sloop of 990 tons, named after the capital of New Zealand. For she was commissioned for service in New Zealand as H M S Wellington in 1935. Throughout the war she served on many a hazardous voyage as an escort vessel to convoys of merchant ships, and thus she had had a close connection with the Merchant Navy which she will so fittingly represent on London's river.

Now, however, her warlike sea-going "innards" and her engine room have gone, and their place is to be taken by the Hall and Court Room of the Master Mariners Company, together with the museum and library.

Youth will play a big part in the life of the Wellington, for she will serve as a centre to which Cadets of the Company of Master Mariners will come for help and advice. One of the purposes of the Wellington is to develop the Company's Cadet scheme. This scheme enables young Merchant Navy men to

start connection with the Company of Master Mariners early in their careers. To become a Cadet of the Company a young man must be of first-class character and be approved by the Company's Cadet Committee, and it is part of every Cadet's duty to come on board the Wellington when on leave.

There he will always find a Master Mariner to welcome him and give him good advice, and it is pleasant to think of a "salty" bearded Master Mariner swapping yarns with a youngster within a stone's throw of the Temple Gardens—for the Wellington is to be moored at Temple Stairs.

Sea Cadets in Training

Not only young professional sailors, but youthful naval volunteers will get to know the inside of the Wellington, for training facilities will be given to the City of London Sea Cadets during the evenings and at weekends.

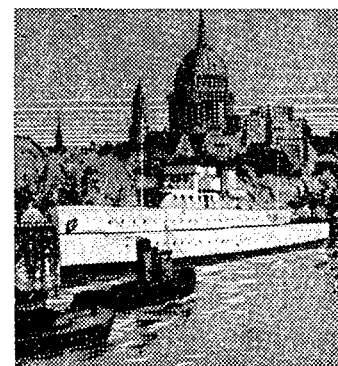
For many other young folk, too, the Wellington will become a magic ship. Her museum will contain an exhibition of ancient and modern navigational instruments, from the astrolabe of Greek and Arab astronomers to the radar, echo sounders, gyrocompass, and other wonders of our time. The museum and the library will tell the whole story of navigation throughout the ages.

It is, indeed, most appropriate that this trim ship should be the floating headquarters of a City

Company which, though comparatively new, represents the ancient seacraft on which the greatness of our nation is founded. Two hundred of these Master Mariners are now freemen and liverymen of the City, and from the Company a Master Mariner may one day become Lord Mayor of London and Admiral of the Port of London.

Since the Company was founded in 1526 its members have grown from 100 to 600. No mariner is eligible to be a member until he has held his Ordinary Master's Certificate for five years. To be a Cadet on its Roll is an honour.

The Wellington, however, must be endowed if she is to serve her purpose, and for this purpose £250,000 is needed. Let us hope that this sum will soon be raised and that the Wellington may long float at Temple Stairs as a symbol of Britain's gratitude to her Merchant Navy.



An artist's impression of the Wellington

THE WILD GEESSE GATHER

UP in the Solway, the wide and salty river mouth between England and Scotland, the wild geese from the colder north are now arriving. Many of them fly through the Highland glens to this warmer spot before flying on to other coastal wintering grounds. Geese are said to enjoy feeling the tide swirling round their legs as they stand on the marshy grounds, and to dislike frozen fields; hence their love of a tidal stretch of shore like the Solway estuary.

Some 15,000 geese are now arriving at this favourite gathering ground. Most of them are Pinkfeet geese, more numerous than the Grey Lag variety or the Bernicles. Once established in their winter quarters, the geese feed by day, or by moonlight. The Grey Lags snip at the marsh grass very neatly with their long beaks, but Pinkfeet pluck up the grass and leave behind hundreds of small mud holes which are filled in by the incoming tide.

Restless at first, the geese are ready to take the wing at the slightest sign of anyone approaching, and when a thousand and more fly up together it is like the roar of an express train over a bridge. Geese-watchers at this time of the year have to practise great patience in their observations, lying for hours in piles of driftwood.

NEW ROLE FOR PUNCH



Children at St John's School, Failsworth, watch a Punch and Judy show that is different. It is used by the Lancashire Road Safety Officer to demonstrate the rules of the road.

THE RUHR AS A POWER FOR PEACE

THE future of the German Ruhr has been the subject of important international discussions during recent months. Indeed, a six-Power Conference composed of Britain, the United States, France, Belgium, Holland, and Luxemburg is now being held in London to decide how to distribute the Ruhr products—coal, coke, and steel—between Germany and her neighbours.

Though the London Conference mainly concerns technicians, economists, or managers of industrial works, all aspects of the Ruhr question are of the greatest political interest to the nations of Western Europe. The reason is this:

The Ruhr has long been a truly amazing workshop. Its area is but one-tenth of pre-war Germany, yet on that small patch of land more than 22 per cent of Germany's industrial workers were employed in a vast number of engineering and chemical works, in mining, in power houses and gas works.

The most important works in the Ruhr were engineering concerns capable of turning out great numbers of excellent machines, machine tools, and hundreds of other metal products.

Unfortunately for the reputation of the Ruhr, its power to produce goods of peace has nearly always been overshadowed by the Ruhr armaments works specialising in guns, submarines, poison gases, and other deadly

THE VARSITIES AT PLAY

THE Oxford and Cambridge University sportsmen will be busy during the next few days. On Wednesday (December 1) the Light and Dark Blues will meet in their annual squash match, at the Conservative Club, West London; on Saturday the soccer teams of the Varsities will play their match at Tottenham; and on the following Tuesday the Rugby teams will meet at Twickenham.

Some of the young players deserve the title of "all-round sportsmen." Hubert Doggart, the Cambridge cricket Blue, will be appearing in the squash match, and then, three days later, will be playing soccer, his second appearance in this event.

In the squash match will be two more established favourites, for Peter Hill, the Light Blues' half-mile champion, captains the Cambridge team, while on the Oxford side is Tony Mallett, the Kent cricketer, who may enter Test ranks next summer. Douglas Insole, the Cambridge soccer captain, is also well known as an Essex cricket all-rounder.

Gifts From Pitcairn Children

THE boys and girls of the Pitcairn Island School, about which the C.N. wrote last week, have sent some interesting gifts to the British Ship Adoption Society.

This was revealed by Lord Rotherwick at the Society's recent annual meeting. The gifts, which were brought by the captain of the liner Corinthic, included raffia baskets, flying fish carved from wood, coloured shells, and bead necklaces. They will be sent to the school which has adopted the Corinthic.

The Pitcairn Island School has also applied for membership of the Society.

weapons. Certain firms, Krupps, for example, were notoriously linked with the arms industry and the German policy of aggression. It was in the Ruhr that the weapons for three invasions of France were forged.

The French, therefore, cannot forget the evil that came from the Ruhr; but neither the French nor the other Allied nations can overlook the good that may come from the Ruhr if its industry serves to help Europe to get on its own feet. This is one of the reasons why the bizonal (British-American) Military Government has recently published a law on the organisation of the Ruhr industry.

Removing Dangers

Briefly, the aim of the law is to remove the worst features in the Ruhr economic system, to allay fears that the Ruhr may again become an arsenal of a warlike Germany, and to help Germany and Europe alike by encouraging the greatest possible production of peacetime goods. To do that, the law has abolished, in the first place, some of the very powerful but dangerous combinations in the Ruhr industry, the so-called cartels, linking whole groups of mines, blast furnaces, engineering works, and so on under one management. Moreover, 26 firms notorious for their support of German war-making policy have been disbanded altogether.

But another, and perhaps the most important question, who is to own these powerful industries, has been left unsolved. It will be for the future freely-elected German Government (though subject to Allied agreement) to decide whether to permit private ownership of such industries or to nationalise them.

The British View

This conclusion, however, has aroused French fear of a resurgent Germany. The French are afraid that a German Government may allow a new powerful Krupps to arise again and prepare for yet another war.

Now, the British point of view is that, no matter what is decided for the duration of the Allied occupation of their country, the Germans will feel free to do as they please when the occupation ends. We believe that, instead of imposing any plan, it is wiser to teach the Germans the value of democracy so that of their own free will they will cease to be a menace to Europe.

Even more urgent is the need to use the great factories of the Ruhr for the production of goods vital for the European Recovery Programme. By linking the Ruhr with the economies of the sixteen Marshall countries, the Germans themselves will surely feel a closer fellowship with other countries of Western Europe.

It is with the last-named practical programme of sharing out the Ruhr products for the benefit of all members of the West-European community that the London talks are concerned.

Welcome to the Swiss

A WARM welcome will be given to the soccer team from Switzerland who are to meet England's international team at the Arsenal Stadium at Highbury on Wednesday this week.

It is interesting to follow the development of football in Switzerland from the records of games played against English teams. In 1909 eleven English amateurs journeyed to Basle to meet the Swiss amateurs, and they gained an easy victory by nine goals to none. A year later, England won 6-1 in a match at Park Royal, London, and a year later still they triumphed at Berne by only 4-1.

It was not until 1933 that the Swiss were strong enough to tackle our professional eleven when, at Berne, England won 4-0; but in their next meeting, at Zurich, in 1938, the Swiss won by two goals to one. Their long and arduous study of the game had borne fruit at last.

Two years ago the Swiss team paid a first visit to one of our leading grounds—Stamford Bridge—and were vanquished 4-1. But last year, at Zurich, England were beaten for the second time, by 1-0.

Now Switzerland's players are visiting England again. Will they be able to return home as victors this time?

Lord Mayor's Fund is Closing Down

A QUARTER of a million children in need will receive free a winter suit, an overcoat, or a blanket, and over 300,000 children will get a pair of shoes, as one result of the Lord Mayor of London's United Nations Appeal for Children which is now closing down.

More than £700,000 has been contributed, and it is inspiring to note that a large part of this sum has been raised by our schools.

The British Government contributed £100,000, as they promised to do when the Appeal reached £500,000; as a direct result of this the contribution of the U.S. Government, which promised £72 for every £28 raised by other governments, equals about £257,000.

Half the money raised by the Appeal will be given to the Children's Emergency Fund, and, among other grants, £200,000 is to be given to nearly 100 British voluntary organisations working for children in many countries.

Any further subscriptions should be sent to the Lord Mayor's Appeal before December 15, 1948.

ABORIGINE SINGER

FOR the first time an Australian Aborigine has leaped into the limelight as an outstanding tenor. The other day young Harold Blair had the proud distinction of singing solo with the Sydney Symphony Orchestra, under the leadership of Eugene Goossens, at Sydney Town Hall.

Harold hopes soon to be going abroad for further musical studies, to win fame for the Aborigines, let us hope, even as Paul Robeson and other delightful singers have achieved fame for the Negroes.

WORLD NEWS REEL

ATLANTIC ADVENTURERS. About 70 refugees—Finns, Germans, Latvians, Lithuanians, and Russians—reached Buenos Aires in two small sailing vessels. It is likely that they will be allowed to settle in Argentina.

On a new air route between Australia and South Africa, which was recently surveyed, the longest "leg" will be from Cocos Island to Mauritius, a distance of 2670 miles, the longest in civil flying.

In Paris recently, Mr Charles Morgan presented his Ode to France, written in 1940, to the Bibliothèque Nationale.

The Hudson River Day Line, which for 85 years has been running passenger steamers between New York and Albany, is closing down as it is unable to compete against railways and cars.

RISE AGAIN. The foundation stone of the new university buildings at Caen in Normandy has been laid. The old buildings were destroyed during the fighting in July 1944.

The bodies of two great French physicists, Jean Perrin and Paul Langevin, were recently carried in state to the Panthéon, where they will rest beside those of other famous Frenchmen.

HOME NEWS REEL

TWO-TIME TIM. Not long ago the speaking clock of the London G.P.O., Tim, began giving two times at once. Tim had to be adjusted and a reserve clock used meanwhile.

Camberwell Borough Council, London, have organised an essay competition for schoolchildren (on *My Favourite Book*) to encourage them to use the junior libraries.

R.S.P.C.A. inspectors have caught a fox hiding in the centre of Liverpool.

A Bill designed to check coast erosion by the sea has been introduced in the House of Lords. It is called the Coast Protection Bill and increases the powers of local authorities to take measures to check encroachments by the sea.

CONSCIENCE MONEY. The Curator of the Herbarium at Kew recently received two shillings sent anonymously by someone who 40 years ago unlawfully picked two bunches of lavender in Kew Gardens.

Wales is to have her own National Advisory Council, to advise Government departments on all matters relating to Wales. It will meet for the first time in the New Year.

For the Christmas and New Year period, half-crown national savings stamps are on general sale to the public. Previously

The British Council have awarded scholarships to 241 graduates and others in about 61 countries for the year 1948-49. Each scholarship enables the holder to undertake a year's specialist study at a British university or other educational institution.

GOLD-MINE. German woodmen in Bavaria, using explosives to blow up tree stumps, found on returning after one explosion that it had scattered 17th-century gold and silver coins about the ground.

Delegates of 44 nations to the third general conference of Unesco, being held at Beirut, unanimously elected the Lebanese Minister of Education as president.

An agreement has been signed between Britain, the U.S., and Canada to make screws with uniform threads. In future all nuts and bolts made in the three countries will be of identical patterns.

When a storm broke down telegraph communications between Sydney and Melbourne, 500 miles apart, telegraph messages between the two cities had to be sent via London, a distance of 24,000 miles.

these could only be bought through savings groups, of which there are now 180,000.

Major Sir Desmond Morton, who has had a bullet in his heart for 31 years, celebrated his 57th birthday not long ago. He was shot in France during the First World War, but surgeons have been unable to remove the bullet because of its position.

Fulham barrow boys are giving £200 to a Christmas party for crippled and orphaned children.

A Tiger Moth plane was sold for £100 at Cambridge Cattle Market.

GIANT MACHINE. The biggest excavating machine in the world, weighing 1500 tons, is being made in Britain.

When a woman rider got into difficulties with her restive horse in Hyde Park recently, the American Ambassador, Mr Lewis Douglas, jumped out of his car and led the horse to the riding path. He was once a rancher in Arizona.

ALICE IN PUZZLELAND. The Lewis Carroll Puzzle Book, published in aid of the Bishop's Appeal Fund in the diocese of Salisbury, contains many tests of knowledge of Alice in Wonderland and other Lewis Carroll books. It can be obtained, 2s 6d post free, from the Appeal Office, 97 Crane Street, Salisbury, Wilts.

YOUTH NEWS REEL

ROYAL GUIDES. A story of the 1st Buckingham Palace Company, by V. M. Synge, has just been issued by the Girl Guides Association at five shillings. Many beautiful photographs accompany this most entertaining story, which reveals our Princesses as two typical British girls and as good Guides.

The Chief Guide is visiting Companies in Malta, Italy, and Greece. Guiding was forbidden in Italy under the Fascists, but the movement has forged ahead since the war; while in Greece, where it was in abeyance during the war, the Guide movement now has 14,000 members.

A Boy Scout Troop has been formed at the United Nations Headquarters in New York. It consists of boys of nine nationalities and they are privileged to fly the United Nations flag side by side with their Troop flag.

R.R.S. Discovery, the Sea Scout training ship moored in the Thames, has been completely refitted and will shortly be reopened to the public.

GIRL PILOTS. With the help of the Kemsley Flying Trust the Women's Junior Air Corps hopes next summer to treble the air scholarships offered to members. Thus nine members will train for their pilot's "A" licence.

News of the Old Hittites

IMPORTANT finds by Turkish archaeologists in Anatolia—inscribed tablets, beautiful pottery, fresh and fine after some 38 centuries, and other notable survivals of Hittite art and industry—add a new chapter to the fascinating story of this ancient people.

We meet them often in the Bible, where we see that even at that remote date they had wheeled vehicles for the horses that they bred and harnessed. Indeed, the Hittites were among the chief providers of King Solomon's horses and chariots, so proudly described in the Old Testament.

One Hittite king married the daughter of a Pharaoh, but it was the successful warfare of the Hittites against the Pharaohs that changed Egyptian history; for it was they who compelled Egypt to abandon her Asian conquests and to become for all time simply an African power.

These old Hittites had a talent for organising their neighbours into unity with themselves, and developed so high a civilisation

that the Hittite women were trained to share the duties of high official rank. They had a literature, with writings covering whole libraries of inscribed tablets, and they were architects and sculptors of a very high order, many of whose winged bulls and human figures are still preserved after being dug up from mounds and pits where they had lain through many a long century.

It seems a little strange, even now, to discover the ancient homes and haunts of a famous Old Testament people in the land we know as Turkey, a nation of whom the Bible knows no more than it does of Ancient Britons. There was no Turkish nation when the Hittites flourished in Anatolia, a Greek name meaning the East.

There is more excavating to be done into the Hittite past, and there is hope that many more thrilling treasures of antique art and wonders of ancient history, hidden in inscriptions and buried monuments, are yet to be unearthed.

HEADING THE BALL

SOME useful hints on the best way of "heading" the ball at football have been given in the London newspaper, *The Star*.

Head injuries are often incurred by schoolboy players, says the writer, because they prefer to head the ball as a sign of adult efficiency. But if they have not been told the right way to do it, they sometimes stand patiently still and let the ball hit them smack on the head.

This may jar the top of the spine against the base of the skull and cause concussion and even skull fracture.

A football, falling from 30 feet, meets a player's head at roughly 20 m.p.h. and a dry football weighs a pound and a wet one probably weighs about 20 ounces.

A prominent footballer, Bernard Joy, told the *Star* writer that in heading the ball he hits it with his head rather than letting it hit him, taking the major strain on his neck muscles and heading the ball with his forehead—partly so that he can watch it to the last second.

THE GARAGE LEFT THE BUS

WILLIAM MOWAT, the mail driver at John o' Groats, looked out-of-doors the other morning and saw his bus standing out in the open and the garage completely vanished! On investigating he found the shattered fragments of the garage lying 500 yards away. The 32-seater bus itself had been shifted several feet by the force of overnight gales.

Mistake of a Century

ALL his century-long life James Cushing has lived in Gillingham, near Beccles, and on his 100th birthday recently he was surprised to receive a telegram of congratulations from the King and Queen addressed to James Cushion.

At first he thought a mistake had been made, but some relatives carefully examined his birth certificate and found his name was James Cushion. For over a century he and his family had been using a wrong name!

A BEEF RAILWAY

THE extension of a railway in Queensland, proposed by the State Government, would do much to increase Britain's supply of meat; for the railway will reach an out-of-the-way region of south-west Queensland where, at a certain time of the year, there is good pasturage for cattle.

This region is called the "Channel Country" because of the channels made by the flood water. When the monsoon rains come to the tropical north, the water rushes down towards Lake Eyre, flooding the surrounding country on its journey. As the floods recede there appears a carpet of rich grass for cattle; but at present this region is 200 miles from the nearest railway, and to take cattle to the lush harvest means a long and exhausting drive of the kind that enthralled us in the *Overlanders* film.

If the railway were extended from Charleville to Windorah, the cattle could be sent and brought back by rail, and by this means, it is estimated, another 40,000 head of cattle a year could be fattened.

Walking Doll



The big doll in this picture is so well balanced that it can walk hand in hand with its proud owner.

A Floor From Queensland

WHEN the new House of Commons is built, members will walk on wood from Queensland trees, for 140,000 superficial feet (a timber measure) of walnut has been ordered for the floor of the new House, and recently 30,000 superficial feet of the timber was loaded into the freighter *Stentor* for despatch to Britain.

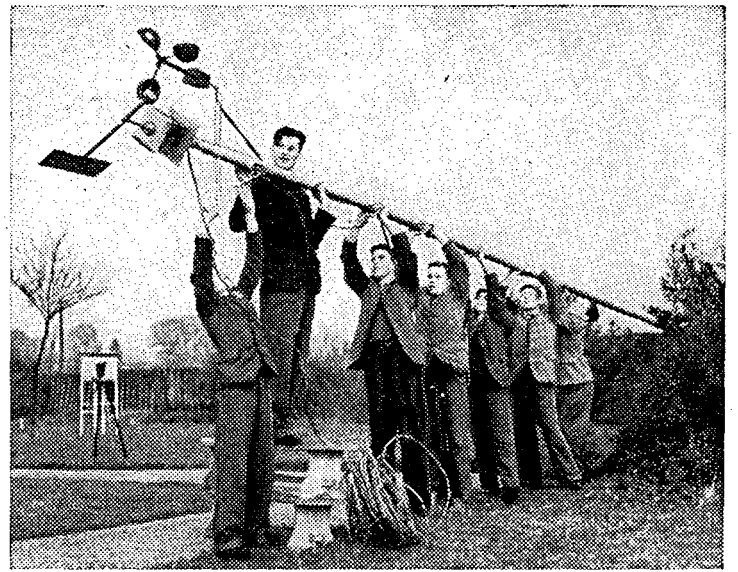
The cost of the timber is ten thousand Australian pounds, and the Queensland Government, as a gesture to the Mother of Parliaments, is making a contribution towards the cost.

NURSES FILMED

A TWO-REEL film that will especially interest girls who hope to be nurses is now being made by G B Instructional Films. It shows the important and interesting work of district nurses, and the production is sponsored by the Queen's Institute of District Nursing.

The varied work of district nurses in many districts is being covered in town, country, and on remote parts of the coast. Shots showing district nurses in town will be made in Lambeth, Camberwell, and Chelsea.

The leading rôles are being taken by three nurses, chosen from hundreds of applicants.



The Weather Boys

Piggot Secondary Modern School at Wargrave, Berkshire, has been recognised by the Air Ministry as an official Meteorological station. Here we see the boys erecting a wind vane and an anemometer, used to measure the force of the wind.

STAMP NEWS

CEYLON is to issue four special stamps on February 4 in honour of the anniversary of their Independence Day.

ABOUT £200,000 in dollars a year is being earned for Britain by twelve firms which export foreign stamps.

SPAIN has issued a set of stamps in honour of the hundredth anniversary of her railways.

A 2½d Silver Jubilee stamp printed in the wrong shade, known as prussian blue, was sold for £85 at Torquay.

THE centenary of the death of Gaetano Donizetti, who wrote 64 operas, is commemorated by a new Italian stamp.

He Safeguarded the Milk

A PIONEER in the safeguarding of milk has recently retired after being in the industry for 70 years. He is Mr Ben Davies, of Beaconsfield, Buckinghamshire, who greatly contributed to the hygiene of milk distribution by being the first man to sell his milk in bottles instead of the old-fashioned zinc cans.

Among his most prized possessions are two faded forms, the first licence issued for pasteurising milk, and the first licence issued for the distribution of certified milk.

RECORDERS

ON behalf of the Medical Research Council four young scientists have gone to Buckhaven and Methil, in Fife, to record the way of life there. To carry out their social survey they will visit cinemas and theatres, dance halls, and clubs, as well as private homes, and will carefully note down people's attitude to such questions as religion and education. They will also make a close study of housing and industrial development in the area, examine children before and during school life, and make a general survey of all aspects of life in the community.

This task will take about a year to complete. The four scientists hope to return to the same area in about ten years' time to record the changes that have taken place.

In Memory of Nancy Riach

ALL who are interested in swimming will recall the record-breaking achievements of Nancy Riach, the young Motherwell girl whose death from infantile paralysis at Monaco last year came as such a blow to British Olympic swimming hopes. Her memory is to be perpetuated by the annual award of the Nancy Riach Memorial Trophy, presented to the swimming world by Mr G. L. Muirhead.

Teams from all over Britain, consisting of two men and two women swimmers, each of whom must swim one hundred yards free-style compete for the trophy. The winners this year, appropriately enough, were from Motherwell, Miss Riach's home town and the place where she learned to swim so wonderfully.

Proceeds from the annual competition for the Nancy Riach Memorial Trophy are to go to the fund for the training of future Olympic swimming champions.

SEVEN-MILE PIER

THE contract for the world's longest pier has just been secured by British firms. The cost is to be about five million dollars, and the work is to be done in Saudi-Arabia for the Arabian American Oil Company. The causeway and pier will carry a broad gauge railway, seven miles long, into the Persian Gulf, and will be used by vessels supplying the new oilfields around Dhahran. It is expected to be completed in about a year.

Flying Lobsters

THE Canary Islands may soon become as famous for their live lobsters as for their bananas. Baskets of live lobsters are now being flown 1500 miles from the islands to Barcelona by the Spanish *Aviacion y Comercio*, and so successful has the experiment proved that the company is considering fitting the aircraft with special tanks.

The outward flight to the Canary Islands, which are a province of Spain, is via Madrid and Seville, with an occasional stop at Cap Jubi, and freight carried includes medical supplies and agricultural implements.



School for Young Sailors

At the Outward Bound Sea School at Aberdovey, Merionethshire, youths from offices, factories, and schools all over the country are serving an arduous 26-days course in seamanship. Here we see some of the lads returning from rowing practice.



Cricket on the Carpet

An indoor game which has proved very popular in South Africa since the arrival of the M C C is Carpet Cricket, and our picture shows a game in progress. The "gear" consists of two wickets, made from matches or nails, a bat about three inches long, and marbles to represent the players.

New Laid Eggs at the Zoo

By Our Own Correspondent

PROMPT action by a young visitor to London Zoo—and by reptile-house keepers—may result in the hatching before long of some snakes of a type never previously bred in the Gardens.

The visitor, a schoolboy, was passing along the public corridor, gazing rapidly into the snakes' dens, when he noticed that one of the inmates, a seven-foot Boipevussu's snake recently received from Paraguay, was laying eggs. And, being an intelligent lad, he informed a keeper.

Watch was kept on the cage, and the snake continued laying until her clutch—23 oval-shaped eggs with soft leathery "shells"—was complete, whereupon the reptile prepared to wrap her coils around them. There were, however, unforeseen developments. Other snakes in the den began disturbing the "mother" and themselves kept moving over the newly-laid eggs, threatening by their sheer weight to crush them. Seeing the danger, keepers promptly removed the entire clutch to the laboratory, where, in a special incubator, the precious eggs are now being kept at a temperature of 80 to 85 degrees Fahrenheit.

All being well, the eggs should provide the Zoo with a welcome Christmas present, in the shape of a family of baby Boipevussu

snakes. When hatched, the young snakes are expected to measure about a foot, and will be fed at first on small dead mice—or frogs, if the Zoo can get them. They are not likely to be popular pets for although the species is not venomous, the snakes can inflict painful bites.

A much more promising pet in the reptile house is a baby broad-fronted crocodile whose docility is already astonishing those visitors who go behind the scenes.

For some time past the tamest reptile in the house has been a young alligator which was accustomed to being taken from his "nursery" cage scores of times daily.

However, he is now growing too big for such outings and will shortly be retired to one of the alligator ponds. But his loss will not be felt unduly, as Peter, the baby crocodile, will step into his place.

Peter was found a year ago on the banks of a river at Kumasi, on the Gold Coast, having been seen actually emerging from his eggshell by a native boy. The lad promptly took his find to one of the Zoo collectors then operating in the neighbourhood. The collector bought the baby croc and included Peter in his next consignment by air for the London Zoo. A day or two later, Peter was safely established in his show-case in the reptile house.

Since then, the baby crocodile has been handled frequently by keepers, and is now so tame that anyone can do anything with him. Unlike many of his kind, he has never yet tried to bite.

C. H.

CATS IN CLOVER

AN expedition carrying food and medical supplies left Cape Town the other day for Marion Island, about 1200 miles to the south-east.

Important members of the expedition are four cats, and their job will be to destroy the rats and mice that are at present turning life into a burden for the handful of men and women on this lonely outpost.

The rodents are everywhere. When a South African on the island was going to bed the other night he found a mouse asleep between the sheets.

BUILT BY A PRAYER

"BLESS this man in the life hereafter, O God, and watch over his son, that he may have Thy courage, faith, and peace in this difficult period of his life—" That simple prayer, offered by a Hungarian pastor for a man who died during the war, has resulted in the rebuilding of a village church in Hungary.

War ended, and the son, Istvan, returned home. And he remembered that prayer. To repair the little church would be a difficult task. The steeple had been riddled with shells, and the church walls and foundations were also badly damaged. So the members of the congregation were called together. "I'll supply the steel and cement," Istvan told them, "if each of you will pledge yourselves to devote a certain number of hours each week to reconstruction." Work began. No one knew how Istvan would get the money, for he was as poor as they; but by canvassing farms in the surrounding countryside he was able to collect sufficient produce to sell in Budapest, and thus to buy all the necessary cement and steel. In a few months the church had been completely rebuilt.

A Road That Hums a Warning

A NEW kind of road in the United States has strips on it that make a loud humming noise if a car strays from one traffic lane to another.

On this road there are six traffic lanes, three for traffic in each direction, so that a driver can choose which lane is most suitable for the speed of his vehicle, and a slow-moving truck, for example, does not hold up faster cars. Each lane is separated by a strip two feet wide, and if a vehicle's wheels run over one of these strips a hum warns the driver that he is going out of his lane.

These strips have no mechanism under them; they consist simply of concrete with a carefully-ribbed surface. It is these corrugations on the surface of the concrete that make the humming noise when a wheel passes over them.

The Editor's Table

BRITAIN'S WILD LIFE

THIS present session of Parliament is to set in motion a plan which our country has needed for a long time—a plan "to ensure the conservation of wild life."

Our land is so small and so liable to change and development that special care must be taken to preserve wild life, plant or animal. There are over seventy places in our islands where natural life in all its primitive wildness exists—places such as Wicken Fen in Cambridgeshire, Braunton Burrows in North Devon, and Ainsdale Dunes in Lancashire. But the very fact that some of them are wild and lonely makes them particularly suitable for military training grounds, and similar purposes.

WHILE the safety of our island security must be maintained there is a greater peace and security which can be preserved through the joy of "simple, wild things" which pursue their lives far from the haunts of men. To make life free and unharassed for "birds, beasts, and all creeping things," to give safety to the smallest of God's creatures, is a Christian duty not to be neglected.

A nation shows its greatness in little things as well as big ones. Its soul is displayed in its care for the helpless and the seemingly unimportant, and the proposed plan to preserve wild life is but another expression of our national love of freedom.

In every one of us there is an ingrained desire to see wild life preserved as far as human beings are able to do so. As Shelley wrote:

*We haunt within the least frequented caves
And closest coverts, and we know these wilds,
Yet never meet them, tho we hear them oft:
Where may they hide themselves?*

To preserve these solitudes and all their wild life will be a worthy undertaking.

CHILDREN

CHILDREN are what the mothers are.

No fondest father's fondest care
Can fashion so the infant heart
As those creative beams that dart,
With all their hopes and fears,
upon
The cradle of a sleeping son.

His startled eyes with wonder see
A father near him on his knee,
Who wishes all the while to trace
The mother in his future face;
But tis to her alone uprise
His wakening arms; to her those eyes

Open with joy and not surprise.
W. S. Landor

JUST AN IDEA

As Charles Kingsley wrote,
The age of chivalry is never
past so long as there is a wrong
left unredressed on earth.

Trouble-Free Travel

MR BEVIN's ideal of being able to travel anywhere without vexatious forms and visas brought a little nearer by Britain's action in abolishing entry visas for Americans coming here. America must still keep visas, but they will not cost anything in future.

The more freedom of contact there is between the people of the world the more sure is the foundation of friendship and peace. Particularly is this between the United States and Britain. This fresh clearance of the lines of travel brings the ideal much nearer in practice.

THE RETURN OF ALICE

THE people of this country have applauded America's generous return of the precious manuscript of Alice in Wonderland not only because its rightful home is here but for all the romance and fun of childhood it represents.



Mr Luther H. Evans, Chief Librarian of US Congress, with the Alice manuscript which he brought to Britain.

Alice is a symbol of youth's natural delight in simple things, a gay sprite of adventure in a world so often grim and cold. With a million children in every generation we take Alice to our hearts once again, "casting gloom away" and expecting a bright surprise at the end of every dark tunnel.

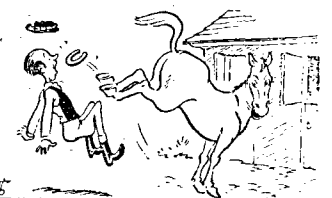
Under the

THE modern girl is keen on horses. But she can only be on one at a time.

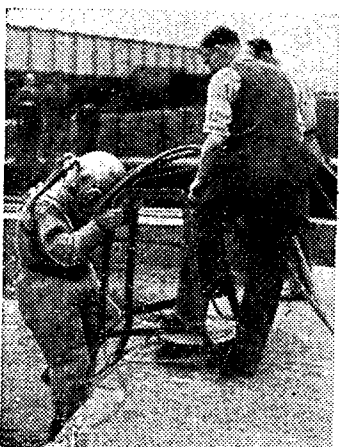
SOME detectives can tell a man's profession by a single look. Suppose he doesn't give them one?

LEWISHAM dustmen have soap, towel, and daily hot baths provided free. Not so dusty.

TRAMPS are called persons without a settled way of living. Never settle down and can't set up.



WORKERS' PARADE



A diver goes down to make a survey of the bed of a London dock.

THINGS SAID

A boys' club is not an attempt just to take boys off the street . . . Its ultimate purpose is no less a thing than to help a boy to build within himself an authority which will control and command his life.

The Duke of Gloucester

WHAT the world needs is magnanimity, understanding, and charity. *Mr Justice Pal, Indian judge*

THERE is no doubt that it is around the family and in the home that all the greatest virtues, the most dominating virtues, of human society are created and strengthened and maintained.

Mr Churchill

I HOPE this great campaign of Britain to increase production will be so successful that we will be sending task forces there to find out the secret of their success. *Mr Paul Hoffman, Marshall Plan Administrator*

Too many people are inclined to think of what they can get rather than what they can give. *Sir Stafford Cripps*

Fewer Still, Please

THE number of mines in which pit ponies are used decreased from 948 in 1938 to 769 in 1947, and the number of horses on the books of collieries decreased during the same period from 32,182 to 21,013.

This is a very welcome reduction in the numbers of the unfortunate ponies who spend their lives in toil far from the light of day. But C.N. readers will feel that there should be a more rapid decrease in their numbers. For during the same period there has been a considerable increase in mechanisation. Thus the amount of coal cut by machine rose from 59 per cent in 1938 to 75 per cent in 1947, and the proportion of coal carried on conveyors rose from 54 per cent to 75 per cent. Mechanisation should also be rapidly applied to the emancipation of the pit ponies.

Editor's Table

PETER PUCK
WANTS TO KNOW

If a quarrel is a
cross word puzzle



A MAN says money doesn't mean a thing to him. Never spends anything but his time.

THERE is a lot to be said for apples in a small garden. Well, they can't speak for themselves.

A MAN is said to have filled four posts in his previous job. Wonder what he filled them with.

PEOPLE will spend more this Christmas. And everyone will spend Christmas itself somewhere.

A CRITIC says of a young British composer that he is a composer to watch. He would rather be listened to.

Wandering Scholars

IN many parts of Europe students are once more attending universities and colleges outside their own countries, just as scholars and students did in medieval days.

This autumn the World Council of Churches, through its Reconstruction Department, has awarded 128 scholarships to students from many war-torn European countries. Fifty-eight of these young men and women are studying in Switzerland, 53 of them in the British Isles, and nine in Sweden; and most of them arrive like the medieval scholars, with little more than a rucksack to hold their belongings.

Stephen Benko has journeyed all the way from Hungary to Bradford, where he is a student at the Congregational College. Catherin Papaviannopoulos from Greece is at the College of the Ascension in Birmingham. Up in Durham, in the shadow of the great Norman cathedral, is Wilho Rinne from Finland. Scattered elsewhere in the British Isles are the many German students.

Most of these modern scholars will, like their medieval predecessors, go back eventually to their own lands and become leaders of new life in the social and religious culture of their countries. Their studies and training are part of the growing international co-operation between all churches and are helping to build up a reservoir of good will from which all the world may draw.

Makers of Happiness

THERE are two great classes of promoters of social happiness: cheerful people, and people who have some reticence. The latter are more secure benefits to society even than the former. They are non-conductors of all the heats and animosities around them. To have peace in a house, or a family, or any social circle, the members of it must beware of passing on hasty and uncharitable speeches, which, the whole of the context seldom being told, is often not conveying but creating mischief. They must be very good people to avoid doing this; for let human nature say what it will, it likes sometimes to look on at a quarrel; and that, not altogether from ill-nature, but from a love of excitement—for the same reason that Charles II liked to attend the debates in the Lords, because they were "as good as a play."

Arthur Helps

CONTENT

TOGETHER we range o'er the slow-rising hills,
Delighted with pastoral views,
Or rest on the rock whence the streamlet distils,
And point out new themes for my muse.
To pomp or proud titles she ne'er did aspire,
The damsel's of humble descent;
The cottager Peace is well-known for her sire,
And shepherds have named her Content.

John Cunningham

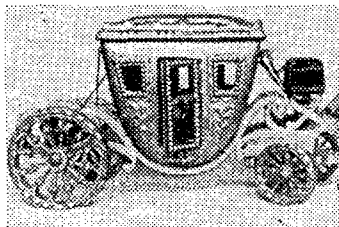
ESIBOMVU ON THE VELD

SOMETHING new is taking shape in the veld 29 miles from Bulawayo. It is a town built for natives on modern lines.

Some time ago the Assistant Native Commissioner for Essexvale, Southern Rhodesia, had a vision of this new town, not a place of roughly-thatched huts, but of solid buildings. He saw it as having its own water and light supplies, its communal halls, squares, and parks, and governed by its own management board consisting of residents of the town.

Now his dream is coming true and a new town called Esibomvu, which means red soil, is rising in the veld. A wide street has been cut and several buildings are almost completed in the business area. Farther along the street are the first houses, whose future owners are already waiting in temporary quarters until their new homes are ready. Another area has been set aside for secondary industries, including tanning, bootmaking, and furniture. Around the township will be two-acre plots where the citizens can grow crops and vegetables to keep themselves in food and also supply the market.

Old Toy Coach



This early 18th-century toy coach is in the Children Through the Ages exhibition now being held at the Abbey House Museum, Kirkstall, Leeds.

Better Machines For the Farm

MORE than ever before good farming depends upon good farm machinery. At the National Institute of Agricultural Engineering at Silsoe in Bedfordshire there is a testing service for farm machinery of all kinds, except for dairy farming, and a research and development section which deals with the elimination of trouble on old machines, and the design of new apparatus.

This, of course, involves raising crops on which to test the apparatus and so the institute has its own estate.

An attempt is being made to design a potato digger which will deliver a cleaner and more easily-handled crop, and a beet harvester which will top, dig, and clean the beet in one operation.

The problem of the mechanical seed drill also engages attention. The varying size of seeds leads to uneven distribution. It is thought that the solution may lie in coating the seeds with a neutral substance to produce a uniform size which can be sowed from the drill with absolute precision.

Temperature studies are also pursued. Aluminium blinds are used to prevent radiation from glasshouses at night; and a great fan has been designed to draw down to ground level the warm air above an orchard so as to reduce the danger of damage from ground frost.

Mary Slessor, the White Queen of Calabar

DECEMBER 2 is the centenary of the birth of a Scottish mill girl who became the acknowledged unofficial ruler of a big area in West Africa. Mary Slessor, or "Ma" Slessor, was her name, and it is writ in letters of gold in missionary annals.

Mary Slessor, who was born in Aberdeen on December 2, 1848, became a weaver at Dundee and there ran a Sunday-school class. For 12 years she worked and studied in her few hours of leisure, always hoping that one day she would go to Africa as a missionary. And one day her dream came true.



Mary Slessor

From 1876 onwards Mary Slessor worked in Africa, first of all steaming up the Calabar River to Duke Town, but always eager to penetrate farther into the entangled waterways, which gave the tribes seclusion and enabled the witch-doctors to wield their power unchallenged.

A quiet and rather shy little woman was Mary, and her secret was a calm fearlessness and a warm heart. One of her most daring adventures was her decision to live alone with the Okoyong people in 1888. Many people said that she would be killed on sight when entering one of their villages. But Mary went ahead with her plans. Taking five of the African boys and girls she had adopted, she set off from the river bank into the bush. In front walked a boy of eleven carrying Mary's kettle and box of tea on his head. (Mary could do little without a cup of tea.) Her first act on entering the village was to take another unwanted baby into her family, a gesture which won the hearts of the people. Nobody harmed her.

The Government made Mary a magistrate to keep order amongst the tribes, but she insisted that she must be allowed to do it in her own way. When she went to the palavers of the people she would knit quietly for hours while the chief men argued and shouted. Any unruly one would get a box on the ears from Mary. When the agreements between the tribes were made the leading men made oaths kneeling at her feet, and after cutting their own

hands so that the blood flowed they would mix the blood with corn, salt, and pepper and ask Mary to say a prayer over the mixture. Although she protested that all this was superstitious she humoured them by taking part and kept their confidence.

Only once was Mary Slessor harmed in her dealings with these wild, untutored savages of the

Calabar. Her very defencelessness made Mary secure against all dangers. She always walked barefooted and wore no sun hat.

Mary once found two tribes waving their spears and shouting their battle cries. She went through the lines of one tribe and marched up to the other. Then a warrior came forward and knelt at her feet. It was a chief whom some time earlier she had nursed back to health. "We beg you to make peace," he said; and all that day there was a long palaver. When evening came she asked if it was war or peace. And the answer came, "It is peace."

Missionary, schoolteacher, medicine-distributor, law-giver, friend—Mary Slessor was never happy for long away from her chosen people. And in 1915 she died among them, in a little mud-walled room in her village.

Famous Landscapes

AN Exhibition called "Richard Wilson and his Circle," at the Birmingham Art Gallery until January 9, includes 70 noble landscapes by this great 18th-century painter whom Ruskin described as "the father of English landscape painting."

There are also 25 drawings, made in Rome by Wilson to the order of the Earl of Dartmouth in 1753, which had been lost sight of since the beginning of the 19th century, and were only recently discovered by the present Earl of Dartmouth at his house, Patshull, near Wolverhampton.



THIS ENGLAND

Little boats at anchor in Paignton harbour, Devon

Over the Hills to Skye

THE population of Skye, the Hebridean island of many romantic associations, has sadly declined. The Registrar-General for Scotland, Mr J. G. Kyd, revealed recently that the population of Skye was 24,000 in 1831, but has now shrunk to 8000.

This largest of the Inner Hebrides is becoming an island of elderly people, for it is mostly the younger ones who leave, and since 1900 the islanders have been leaving at the average rate of three a week.

Yet Skye people all over the world are prouder of their ancestry than those of any other part of Scotland, said Mr Kyd. Indeed, they have contributed so greatly to the building of the Commonwealth, that he called Skye the "blood donor of the Empire."

Perhaps Skye's most romantic memory is that of the heroine Flora Macdonald, who helped Bonnie Prince Charlie, the Young Pretender, to escape after the Battle of Culloden in 1746.

The Prince's Disguise

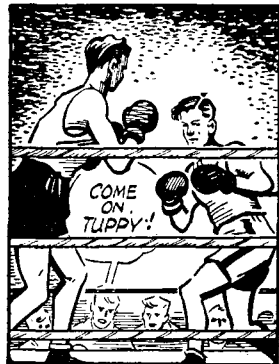
Charles Edward had taken refuge in the small island of Benbecula, 20 miles to the west of Skye. There was a reward of £30,000 offered for his capture, but Flora agreed to help him escape. She gave him woman's clothes to dress up in and passed him off as her maid. Then with six men for a boat's crew, she took him across to Skye. There she told him to hide in a cave near Portree while she went to obtain help. Finally, she assisted him to escape to France.

Suspicion fell on her, however, and she was arrested. She told the Duke of Cumberland, Commander-in-Chief in Scotland, that she had only helped the Prince out of pity for him, and would have done the same for the Duke if she had found him defeated and in distress. She was imprisoned in the Tower of London but later released. Dr Johnson, who saw her, described her as "a woman of soft features, gentle manners, and elegant presence." Subsequently she married and went to America.

Steps to Sporting Fame • H. G. Owen Smith



So small that he was nicknamed "Twopence" or "Tuppy" H. G. Owen Smith became one of the great all-rounders of sport.



"Tuppy" went to the Diocesan College, Cape Town, and made a name as a boxer and cricketer. After five first-class appearances, he toured England in 1929 and hit his first century in a Test.



He remained in England six years, was a triple blue at Oxford, captained the Mother Country Rugby XV, and while studying medicine became goalkeeper for St Mary's Hospital Soccer XI.



Owen Smith is now a doctor in Cape Town. Golf and tennis give him an occasional break. He emerged from cricket retirement to score a half-century for Western Province against the M.C.C.

St Andrew's Day

NOVEMBER 30 is the Day of St Andrew, Scotland's patron saint, though there has always been a mystery about the saint's connection with the country.

One account speaks of St Andrew's relics being brought to Scotland in the year 369 by a pious Greek Christian named Regulus, to prevent them falling into pagan hands. His vessel was wrecked in a storm and drifted ashore on the coast of Fife, where a rude chapel was erected and the saint's relics buried. This is given as the origin of the city of Saint Andrews.

Regulus became the great missionary to the Picts, and in the Ecclesiastical History of Scotland we find it recorded that in a battle where the Picts were surrounded by their Saxon foes, the Pictish king vowed that if he escaped he would dedicate a tenth part of his kingdom to Saint Andrew. That evening the apostle appeared to the Pictish leader and assured him of victory. During the battle on the morrow St Andrew's Cross appeared in the sky, and so terrified the English that they retreated. In due course all Scotland adopted St Andrew as their patron saint.

Early coins bearing his figure confirm the long association.

Stoves to Check Soil Erosion

THE cutting down of indigenous bush by natives having stripped the fertile Buffalo River valley of most of its vegetation, soil erosion has increased so much that dams are getting silted up and irrigation schemes ruined.

Accordingly the farmers, who live near King Williamstown in the Eastern Cape Province, have put forward a novel plan to stop the cutting down of the trees.

They agree that some sort of standardised stove—brick or, preferably, iron—should be provided for natives for cooking and thus reduce the excessive quantity of wood used by them when cooking on fires exposed to the wind.

A LITERARY SHRINE IN SURREY

ALL lovers of English literature have rejoiced at the rescue of Moor Park, the Surrey house where Jonathan Swift lived for some time.

This house no longer has a resident owner, and, fallen upon evil times, was about to be demolished when at the eleventh hour a public-spirited man stepped in and bought the property, securing its future by dedicating it as a centre for adult education.

It was to Moor Park, at the end of the 17th century, that Jonathan Swift came as a young man to act as secretary to Sir

William Temple, statesman, ambassador, and famous essayist. Here Swift wrote the *Battle of the Books* and *The Tale of a Tub*, and here, too, he met Esther Johnson, a beautiful child of eight, daughter of a widowed confidential servant of Sir William Temple's sister. Swift acted for a while as the girl's tutor, and their friendship became the life-long devotion reflected in his *Journal to Stella* and in his sonnets.

Moor Park was also the home, after her marriage to Sir William Temple, of Dorothy Osborne, one of the queens of English letter-

writing, a woman beautiful, learned, witty, wise, and of a sweet and sunny nature.

Her early years were troublous and full of peril with the conflict between King Charles and the Parliament, for she was the daughter of a prominent Royalist. The trials of the times made the engagement of Dorothy and Sir William Temple a long one, but had it been otherwise we could not have had her priceless letters, written by her to him during the seven years that their engagement lasted. Sir William Temple's letters to Dorothy have been lost; hers lay, hidden and unsuspected treasure, in a Suffolk parsonage for over a century.

When they were at last recovered and published, Lord Macaulay, declaring himself for ever vowed to devotion to her name, said he wished her letters were twice as many, and added that for any quantity of them he would gladly give ten times their weight in State papers. Never did a man receive letters more tender, wiser, merrier, or more packed with information than Dorothy Osborne wrote to Sir William Temple. Perfect as outpourings from a woman's heart and brain, they are also a picture of a troubled age.

The Rarest Goose Comes to Town

REPRESENTATIVES of the entire family of British wildfowl will be on view at the Wildfowl Exhibition which is being opened by Lord Templewood in the Rowland Ward Gallery, Piccadilly, London, on Wednesday this week and will continue until January 22. Admission is free. The birds are stuffed specimens, and the work of mounting them is a feat of taxidermy which has cost incessant labour and research during the past 18 months. Here is the only specimen yet obtained of the newly-recognised Greenland White-fronted goose.

As well as the wonderful collection of wildfowl, there is a model of the Institute's Orielton Ringing Decoy, showing how wild ducks are decoyed into a "pipe" covered with netting, to be caught, ringed, and released. Among other exhibits are a diorama of sea ducks in their natural surroundings, wall maps showing the migratory flight of birds many thousands of miles across Europe, pictures loaned by Mr Peter Scott, and paintings by other artists—many of them young artists.

THROUGH THE LOOKING GLASS—Lewis Carroll's Delightful Fantasy, Told in Pictures

Tweddledee here concludes his poem about the Walrus and the Carpenter in which it now appears certain that those two strange characters have greedy designs on the over-trustful little oysters.



"It seems a shame," the Walrus said, "To play them such a trick, After we've brought them out so far, And made them trot so quick!" The Carpenter said nothing but "The butter's spread too thick!" "I weep for you," the Walrus said, "I deeply sympathise." With sobs and tears he sorted out Those of the largest size, Holding his pocket handkerchief Before his streaming eyes.



When Tweddledee ended his poem, Alice heard an alarming noise. "Are there any lions about?" she asked timidly. "It's only the Red King snoring," said Tweddledee, and they took her to where the King was sleeping. "Isn't he a lovely sight?" asked Tweddledum. Alice could not honestly say that he was. "What do you think he's dreaming about?" said Tweddledee. "Nobody can guess," replied Alice.



"He's dreaming about you!" chuckled Tweddledee. "And if he stopped, where do you suppose you'd be?" "Here, of course," replied Alice. "You'd be nowhere," retorted Tweddledee. "You're only a thing in his dream!" "If that there King was to wake," added Tweddledum, "you'd go out—bang!" Alice said, "If I'm something in his dream, what are you?" "Ditto!" cried Tweddledum. "Ditto, ditto!" shouted Tweddledee.



"Hush, you'll wake him!" warned Alice. "It's no use your talking about waking him," Tweddledum replied. "You know very well you're not real." Alice began crying. "I am real!" Tweddledee remarked, "You won't make yourself a bit realer by crying." "If I wasn't real," said Alice, half laughing through her tears, "I shouldn't be able to cry." Tweddledum interrupted, "I hope you don't suppose those are real tears?"

More of Tweddledum and Tweddledee's Provoking Nonsense in Next Week's Instalment

CN BOOKSHELF



For Dog-Lovers

Brave Companions, by Ruth Adams Knight (Museum Press, 6s).

THE war in the Pacific is the exciting background for this story of an Alsatian who was her master's comrade-in-arms, and her puppy who became his Seeing Eye.

Maid of Orleans

The Lass From Lorraine, by M. C. Scott Moncrieff (Blandford Press, 7s 6d).

THE martyred saint of France is very human as a country girl of Domremy in this colourful new telling of the immortal story of Joan of Arc.

Countryside Walks

The Ernest Aris Nature Series (Fountain Press, 3s 6d each).

NATURE lovers will delight in these four walks with Mr Aris—Down the Lane, O'er the Downs, In the Woods, and By the River. Beautiful illustrations by the author help the description of the interesting things to look for in the countryside.

Amusing Company

Endless and Co., by Antonia Ridge (Faber, 8s 6d).

ENDLESS is a cat with no tail—a Manx in other words. Almost endless are his pranks, but in this book of short stories he has several other curious characters, such as Muggins the Dog, Poko and the Flibbertigibbets, Tic-Tac the Clown, to share his limelight and amuse the young reader.

Fun and Thrills

Mystery Christmas, by Norman Dale (The Bodley Head, 7s).

CHRISTMAS is the jolliest time of the year, but for Tim Forest, and his friend Sidney Parr, it proved to be also the most thrilling. An old cellar, a miser's buried hoard, a mystery man, and several boys provide the chief ingredients of this exciting Christmas tale, which is splendidly illustrated by Ley Kenyon.

Angela Ogden Again

Mrs Fluster's Circus, by Angela Ogden (Herbert Joseph, 7s 6d).

CLEVER Angela Ogden, who is only 12, here introduces her jolly companions—Mimi the hedgehog, Snooks the rabbit, and all the rest under the wing of Mrs Fluster the hen—to another crowd equally jolly. Their adventures are as delightfully pictured as they are described.

A Motley Crew

Sam Pig in Trouble, by Alison Uttley (Faber, 7s 6d).

SAM PIG is an old friend, even if he is a rascal, and it is a pleasure to meet him again in 12 new short stories; not to mention his brother and sister pigs, Brock the badger, Dancing Icicles, Breadman, and all the rest of the amusing motley crew.

At Boarding School

Autumn Term, by Antonia Forest (Faber, 8s 6d).

ALL girls who like a school yarn will revel in the adventures of the twelve-year-old twins, Laurie and Nicola, during their first term at boarding school, determined to be as distinguished as their sisters. Very human schoolgirls these.

ISLANDS OF MANY SECRETS

DURING 1945 the Air Ministry began converting the Cocos Islands into a base for our bomber planes. But only recently has the Air Ministry let the world into the secret of what was then done, of the cutting-down of thousands of palm trees, and the making ready for the great planes.

Secrecy seems appropriate to the Cocos Islands, lying in the Indian Ocean 1200 miles from Singapore. For centuries they have been the goal of secret expeditions whose aim was to unearth secret hoards of treasure supposed to have been buried there by the rascally heroes of the great days of piracy. Many have been seekers, and many the "near misses" that they have reported on returning empty-handed. Not a single doubloon has been recovered there, to counterbalance the thousands upon thousands of pounds spent in the seeking. If there is smugglers' treasure in the islands, the R A F men must have had it beneath their feet.

What they did see, without much seeking, were the land crabs, for which the islands are notorious. Incredible as it seems, these crabs climb trees, bring down coconuts, strip off the fibre husks for lining their nests, then, beating out the "eyes" of the nuts, insert their thin hind claws and extract the substance within. But nuts do not content them—they are not called "robber crabs" for nothing. They rob the nests of sea birds and devour the young, not merely nestlings, but well-grown birds which lack

only the flight feathers of their wings to enable them to escape.

Captain Scott's men, resting on a South Seas isle on their last voyage South, saw similar crabs gnawing their boots as they stood. Other travellers found that during the night the loathesome creatures, endeavouring to gnaw their bodies, had succeeded in biting holes in their clothes.

The Cocos crabs played a sinister part during the First World War when, after HMS Sydney had driven the German raider Emden ashore, a shattered wreck, the survivors had to withstand attacks by hordes of these entirely fearless crabs. Said a Naval report of the time, commenting on the scene, "The land crabs there are very ferocious."

Largely because of legends of pirate gold buried somewhere amid their rocks and caves, the Cocos Islands are a source of unending story and adventure, largely dependent upon secrecy for their thrill and interest. But the R A F afforded the crown of secrets, maintaining it against all the efforts of the Japanese secret intelligence service. Pirate gold, man-eating crabs, air monsters—what a catalogue of marvels for an island group!

For Christmas Stockings of the Needy

ALL over America children have been getting presents ready for devastated Europe. Begun on a modest scale three years ago, this generous offering of gifts will this year reach fourteen countries.

The plan is quite simple. Groups of children in American schools and clubs prepare gifts. Each gift, after being wrapped in seasonable fashion, is tagged with the name and address of the donor, the age of the girl or boy for whom it is suitable, and, if desired, the country to which it is to be sent. Gathered by local committees, these gifts are then forwarded to Church

World Service, accompanied by money for shipping charges.

Grown-up Americans, too, are working to help people in other lands. At New Windsor, in Maryland, Church World Service has a big centre for handling food, clothing, books, medicine, tools, and other contributions which pour in by truck and train. All are carefully sorted, wrapped, and prepared for shipment overseas, where they are distributed by church agencies solely on the basis of greatest need. Since the centre was opened 16 million pounds of materials have been dealt with in this way.

THE GREAT TREK NORTH

PEOPLE in South Africa are moving north again as they did 100 years and more ago. In the first eight months of this year more than 4000 emigrants left the Union for Southern and Northern Rhodesia, Nyasaland, Kenya, and Tanganyika. Last year 3000 South Africans left for the same destinations.

This compares with the number of those who took part in what is called the Great Trek, from 1836-38, when between 5000 and 10,000 Dutch-speaking South Africans who were dissatisfied with British government left Cape Colony and—muzzle-loaders in hand—journeyed to the northern wilderness to establish independent republics there.

These early South African emigrants travelled across the trackless veld in wagons drawn by long teams of oxen, each wagon holding, as a rule, a complete Boer household with all their belongings. Before them lay lands held by the ferocious Zulus.

The modern trekkers have a more comfortable and less hazardous journey. This year 4313 of them travelled by train, or by car along excellent roads, and 826 travelled by sea. Nor did they leave the Union because they did not like its government, but rather with the hope of improving their fortunes in the fast-developing new countries.

Other Books Received

Told on the Air, compiled by Geoffrey Dearmer (Latimer House, 9s 6d).

Birdland Calling, photographed and described by Reginald Gaze (Faber, 7s 6d).

The Golden Book of Carols, illustrated by Trever Evans (Blandford Press, 7s 6d).

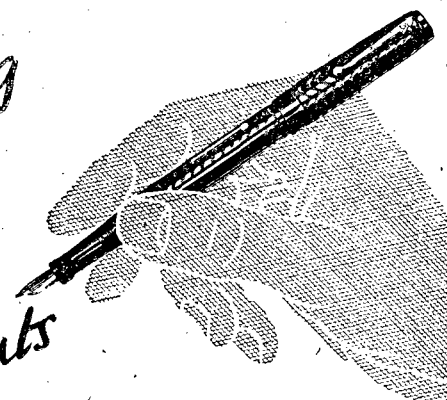
Collins Film Book, edited by Eric Gillett (Collins, 7s 6d).

Getting to Know Wild Flowers, by Gareth H. Browning (Collins, 10s 6d).

Mrs Orange, by Charles Dickens; illustrated by R. S. Sherriffs (Herbert Jenkins, 8s 6d).

The Young Traveller in Australia, by Kathleen Monypenny (Phoenix House, 7s 6d).

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all
students



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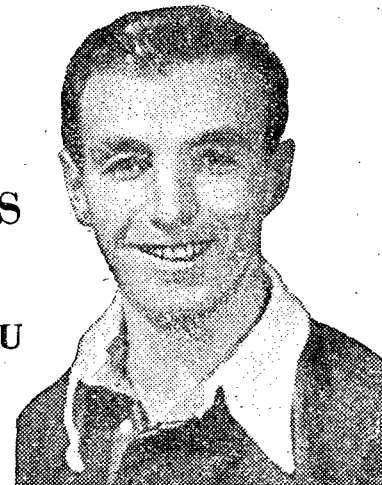
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Stanley
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SAYS

"How do YOU
cross the
road?"



"I'll admit I get a big kick out of dodging through an opposing team's defence. But if you think I believe in dodging through traffic, you're wrong. That's just a mug's game. Backs and halves don't kill you—cars do. Here's the way I cross a road:

- 1 At the kerb—HALT.
- 2 Eyes—RIGHT.
- 3 Eyes—LEFT.
- 4 Glance again—RIGHT.
- 5 If all clear—QUICK MARCH.

"I don't have to run—I just wait until there is a real gap in the traffic before I start.

"To score in Soccer, you often take risks and cut things fine. But traffic's quite different. To be a good Road Navigator, you want to keep alert—but play safe, every time. Do your Kerb Drill as I do. Then you'll be all right, and you won't cause accidents to other people."

Stanley Matthews

GET HOME SAFE AND SOUND

THE BRAN TUB

UNAFRAID

THEY were discussing a mutual acquaintance.

"He's absolutely afraid of work," said Bill.

"Not he," replied Jack. "Why, I've seen him lie down and fall asleep by the side of it!"

Mounting a Horse

THE custom of mounting a horse from the left dates back to the days when all men went about armed. As the sword was always worn on the left side the horseman always mounted on the left flank of his steed, enabling him to swing his free right leg over the saddle.

FROM THE MENU

IN the café said Jim, "For my part, I think I'll have pea soup to start;

Then cold rabbit pie,
To be followed up by
A helping of this 'à la carte'."

FAST MOVING

SAMMY SIMPLE was taking a particularly vicious mule to the market.

"Has that animal ever kicked you?" he was asked.

"No," said Sammy. "But he often kicks the place where I recently was."

What Your Name Means

Vivian .. lively
Walter .. powerful warrior
Wilfred .. resolute peace.
William .. helmet of resolution
Winifred .. white wave
Zoë .. life

BEDTIME CORNER

Meet Mr Portly



Mr Portly

his face washed.

"Must you?" he mewed as Mother Cat started on him for the third time that morning.

"Yes—specially today," she answered. For today he was going to his new home. "Now," she added when she had explained this: "Remember your manners! Don't lie too near the fire, and always wash behind your ears."

And Mr Portly promised he would.

So when Ann and Christopher came for him with the carrying basket he was so busy remembering that he was quiet all the way to his new home.

Once there, however, he soon became so frolicsome that he forgot most of Mother Cat's advice. He did remember his manners, but didn't wash behind his ears, and did lie so near the fire that he almost roasted.

When bedtime came sleepy Mr Portly was taken up to his box-bed in the twins' bedroom. The box had a rug in it, but he soon felt shivery,

Jacko's Dress Parade



JACKO, Chimp, and Baby had been invited to a fancy dress party. They had hunted high and low, and by means of much begging and borrowing had managed to dress themselves respectively as an armoured knight, a Tudor gentleman, and an Eastern prince. Even Bouncer was arrayed in a frilled collar and clown's hat. They attracted quite a lot of attention as they passed through the town, but, as Jacko remarked afterwards, that was probably due to the terrific din he made as he clanked along.

FARMER GRAY EXPLAINS

MR Gobbler Shows Off. The turkey swelled visibly; his feathers fluffed out, his tail spread like a fan, as he burst into angry gobblings. Ann retreated hastily, much to her brother Don's amusement.

"Never mind, Ann," smiled Farmer Gray, seeing the small girl's discomfiture. "Older people than you become alarmed when Mr Gobbler shows off. A number of birds adopt this method of defence. A certain type of cockatoo has a crest on its head, which it can flick up instantly. This sudden increase in size, coupled with the display of colour and general fierce appearance, scares off would-be aggressors."

Other Worlds

IN the evening Uranus is in the east. In the morning Venus is low in the south-east. The picture shows the Moon at 5 o'clock on Friday evening, December 3.



ANAGRAM

A THREE-LETTER word, I spoil what is nice. With my letters changed round, I'm a limb beyond price. With a further upset, A horned creature you'll get.

Answer next week

Well Worn

THE shoes were very old but he took them to the shoe-repairer.

"Are these worth repairing?" he asked.

"Oh, yes!" replied the cobbler. "We can sole and heel them, and put on new uppers. The laces are quite good."

Children's Hour

BBC Programmes from Wednesday, December 1, to Tuesday, December 7.

WEDNESDAY, 5.0 The Midnight Visitor—a play. 5.40 Violin. North, 5.15 A Matilda Mouse Story. Welsh, 5.0 The Hare with the Red Tail—a play; Nature Discussion.

THURSDAY, 5.0 Christopher Cobber (2). 5.15 The Box of Delights (2). North, 5.0 Nursery Sing-Song. Welsh, 5.30 Junior Radio Record.

FRIDAY, 5.0 Biggles Flies North (2). Scottish, 5.0 Songs; The Stevenson Doll—a story. 5.20 Counterpane Corner; The Cow with the Klaxon Horn (1).

SATURDAY, 5.0 The Coloured Coons; How I Learned—Netball. North, 5.0 Wandering with Nomad; Music; London Log—a talk.

SUNDAY, 5.0 A Play; Pentre-poeth Boys' Choir. North, 5.0 Know-Your Region—Carlisle.

MONDAY, 5.0 On a Cattle Ranch (3). 5.15 Cries of Old London; Snow Leopard—a story. North, 5.0 Nursery Sing-Song; The Launching of Janet (5). Scottish, 5.15 The Shoes that Walked Away 5.35 Zoo Man and Bird Man.

TUESDAY, 5.0 The Treasure Seekers (14). 5.20 Piano. 5.35 How to Listen to Opera. N. Ireland, 5.0 Osbert (3); Uncle Andy Buys a Jennet—a story; Songs; Piano. North, 5.0 Mole's Castle (3); Concert Preview; Current Affairs. Scottish, 5.0 A-Wheel in West Lothian—a talk. West, 5.35 Music. 5.40 Rugger—by the Sports Coach.

Cross Word Puzzle

Reading Across. 1 Edge of a cup. 4 A stage play. 8 A transposition of letters to form another word. 10 Land surrounded by water. 11 Nimble. 13 Rugby Union. 14 Its leaf is Canada's emblem. 16 Parched. 18 To consume. 20 This down suggests bedtime. 23 French for of. 24 One who employs. 25 One who mimics. 27 A beacon. 29 A jog with the elbow. 30 Donkey.

Reading Down. 1 A Scottish landowner. 2 Contracts for payment in case of loss or damage. 3 Chum. 4 Doctor. 5 To scrape with a coarse kind of file. 6 Abundant. 7 Some. 9 A precious stone. 12 Correctors of the press. 15 A period of time. 17 To relinquish. 19 Birds of the gull family. 21 To haul. 22 A rodent. 24 A kind of vase. 28 Leguminous plant. 28 Compass point.

Asterisks indicate abbreviations. Answer next week

DO IT NOW

STRIKE the iron while it is hot, Do not wait too long; Form good habits in your youth And you won't go wrong.

LAST WEEK'S ANSWERS

What Towns are These?

Torquay, Bolton, Newport, Stirling, Gravesend, Swansea.

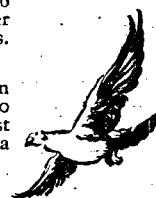
BSA facts on STRENGTH, SPEEDINESS AND SMARTNESS



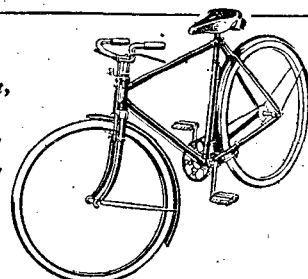
STRENGTH Tossing the Caber. The caber, a heavy tree trunk measuring 16 to 20 ft. has been thrown over 40 feet by Scottish athletes.



SPEED Homing Pigeons can fly at an average speed of 30 miles per hour. The highest authenticated speed of a homer is 80 m.p.h.!



SMARTNESS The Sword of Honour is awarded at Sandhurst to the best Cadet of the year. Smartness, of course, is one of the winning points!

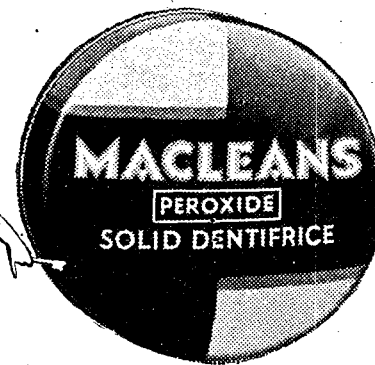


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